examinations; clashing of examination dates and undue hardships to students and their parents, the Central Government have submitted a proposal before the Hon'ble Court for evolving a scheme to conduct a combined All-India Entrance Examination through a suitable agency for selection of candidates for admission to various Government and private medical colleges in different States. The proposed scheme would also allow sufficient flexibility to the States/Medical colleges in choosing the candidates from amongst the candidates who qualify the examination while ensuring the primacy of merit in selection of candidates even against the seats filled up by the Management. The hearing before the Hon'ble Court in this matter has concluded and the judgement is reserved.

Ethical approach for AIDS Control

*315. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that strategy for controlling AIDS through contraceptive methods is being diluted and more emphasis is being placed on ethical approach like 'abstinence and being faithful;

(b) if so, the genesis of theis strategy; and

(c) whether it would contribute towards more spread of AIDS rather than controlling it, as population explosion so far does not give credence to the 'Abstinence and Faithfulness' approach?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Government of India, through NACO, is implementing a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme across the country through State AIDS Control Societies. The World Health Organization (WHO), in their Global Programme on AIDS (GPA), popularized the ABC approach which is being followed in over 150 countries, and is by now, an internationally accepted media and program strategy. It is based on the belief that HIV is a problem with a solution. It contemplates bringing about behaviour change within high risk behaviours that include, but are not limited to:

Abstinence and/or delayed sexual debut;

Being faithful to, and developing fidelity towards single partner relationships; and

Condom promotion for protection.

There is no dilution in the strategy for containing HIV/AIDS. We recognize that the optimal mix of activities persued would vary in accordance with societal norms, socio-cultural milieus the stage of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and key target populations.

Prices of DDA flats

†*316. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of flats constructed by the Delhi Development Authority are higher in comparison to the flats constructed by the private sector;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted for reconsideration on the price policy;

(d) if so, whether its report has been received; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that the price of DDA flats is determined taking into consideration the actual cost of land acquisition, development of land which includes provision of infrastructure, essential services, and community facilities, as well as cost of construction of flats and hence, the housing construction activities of DDA and private sector may not be strictly comparable.

(c) to (e) The Committee constituted by DDA to look into the costing and disposal of flats has submitted its report. The Committee has, *inter-alia* recommended for reduction of works contingencies, dispensing of collection of share money, reduction of interest rates, re-introduction of Self-financing Schemes, auction of flats at prime locations, etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.